

Pages 8-9, please replace the last paragraph beginning at line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2
--Furthermore, the present inventors prepared a hybrid gene encoding a hybrid protease, i.e., a fusion protein from both proteases, and confirmed that an enzyme expressed by hybrid gene showed the protease activity at high temperature like the above hyperthermostable protease.--

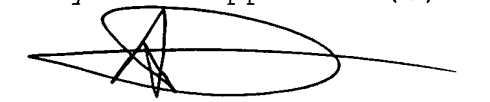
REMARKS

The amendments are being made to provide consistency with the amendments to the specification of the parent application. In addition, a Cross-Reference to Related Application section is added.

Respectfully submitted,

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"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN THE SPECIFICATION"

Pages 8-9, please replace the last paragraph beginning at line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Furthermore, the present inventors ~~made~~ prepared a hybrid gene encoding a hybrid protease, ~~which was a chimera i.e.,~~ a fusion protein from both proteases, and confirmed that an enzyme expressed by ~~the~~ hybrid gene showed the protease activity under at high temperature ~~conditions as~~ like the above hyperthermostable protease ~~which resulted in the completion of~~ the present invention.--